



## NLR Community Garden Committee Meeting NOTES

July 22, 2015, 3:30–4:30 p.m.

### **Committee members present:**

**NLR Fit 2 Live** (Bernadette Gunn Rhodes, Sharice Loftin, Beau Cooper)

**NLR Neighborhood Services** (Dan Scott)

**St. Patrick Community Garden** (Robby McAllister)

**NLR Community Garden** (Mary VanDusen)

**Skyline Garden** (Diane Barton)

**North Little Rock Academy** (Charles Jones)

### **Follow-up items:**

- Next meeting – August 19, 3-4:30
- Put everyone on e-newsletter, send out
- Food is Free trays on garden signs
- North Little Rock Academy Sign
- Share photos of Mayor's Garden Tour:  
<https://app.box.com/s/gpoey0uw9l7y2785sg0mqw4ovs0vv5lx>

### **3:30-3:40      Welcome and introductions**

### **3:40-3:55      Updates from Fit 2 Live & Arkansas GardenCorps**

- **Spring 2014:** Food Forest funds being returned (\$2500), 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian did not request last \$875, ROCAN did not use final \$886.
- **Fall 2014:** The One Submitted updated budget for \$3000, 4 the Youth and Bailey Chapel need to spend money or request extension.
- **Spring 2015:** St. Patrick's and Recovery Centers closed out.
- **New GardenCorps member** for 2015-2016: Sara Webb
  - From Greenville SC
  - Recent Graduate of Clemson, majored in Bio.
  - Completed many service projects with campus groups
  - Interested in cooking and nutrition
- Important dates below
- Beau & Sharice - Delivered compost. Started in Greenhouse: cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, will keep in greenhouse until weather cools off. Started seed trays with nine 9X36 cell, will start 9 more. Did education with kids starting broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage. Kids are knowledgeable about health and link to diseases. Did Mayor's tour, pictures on website. Photos at  
<https://app.box.com/s/gpoey0uw9l7y2785sg0mqw4ovs0vv5lx>

### **3:55-4:15      Updates from garden managers**

#### **St. Patrick's Community Garden**

Matter of keeping everything watered. It is hot out. Trying to fold in community without prohibiting the right kind of local harvesting. Saturday P.M.: Cookout when sign is put up. Priest

will give blessing. Also planning expansion with beds designated for Tomatoes & Okra to give produce to community.

### **NLR Academy**

Local people going to pick food at night. Summer school kids helping too. Volunteers helping, parents of kids invested too. Peas growing fast. Business class: kids will set up farm stand. Will learn everything about one vegetable. Will get sign info to Fit 2 Live. Giving veggies to School Board in July with presentation. Putting up privacy fence in fall (early August).

### **North Little Rock Community Farm**

Getting ready for school year with a workday. 5:30-8:30 pm today: workday w/ Regions Bank volunteers, family, teachers. This summer: presented at 2 conferences about farm (2015 breakthrough solutions conference, one with CEO of East Initiative), Board still making schedules & recruiting community members for workdays.

### **Skyline**

All operating well. Will put in greens in fall, got tiny squashes. Orchards – Challenge to keep wisteria out. A little fruit on apple in front. Pomegranate flowering. Gardeners are tending, picking.

#### **4:15-4:28      Discussion: Approval of Budget Amendments**

Question to committee: If a garden requests a budget amendment and the new budget items all fall into “allowable expense” category, does committee need to approve or does committee give Fit 2 Live Coordinator the authority to approve the amendment?

Motion from Diane Barton: Give Fit 2 Live Coordinator the authority to approve the amendment.

Motion seconded by Robby McAllister.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### **4:28-4:30      Public comment**

None.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

- **Garden Workshop on Composting:** Saturday, July 25, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Dunbar Community Garden (1800 S Chester St)
- **Tour of NLR Community Farm with Mayor Dabbs, Bryant:** Friday, July 31, 9:00 a.m.
- **Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 Reporting Deadline:** Friday, July 31, 4:00 p.m.
- **Fall 2015 Garden Funding Application Deadline:** Monday, August 3, 4:00 p.m.
- **Deadline for Garden Awards – 1 paragraph and 3 pictures:** Monday, August 17.